

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 27-39 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and kindly amend the remaining claims as follows:

C<sup>2</sup> 6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the 2-oxetanone size is added in an amount of from 0.05% to 0.25% of the fiber weight in the pulp slurry.

C<sup>3</sup> 18. (Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the 2-oxetanone size is added in an amount of from 0.05% to 0.25% of the fiber weight in the pulp slurry.

**REMARKS**

**Status of Claims:**

Claims 1-42, as re-numbered by the Examiner, were pending in the application. Claims 27-39 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1-26 and 40-42 are now pending in the application. Each of the pending claims defines an invention that is novel and unobvious over the cited art. Favorable consideration of this case is respectfully requested.

**Specification:**

The specification is hereby amended solely to indicate that 09/380,752, the parent of the present application is now abandoned.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph:**

Claims 6, 18, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph, as being indefinite as not indicating the basis of the numbers.